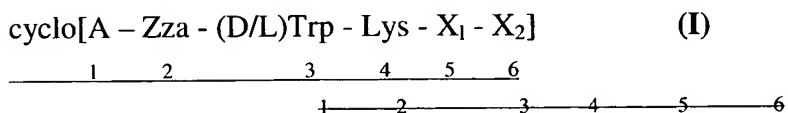


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

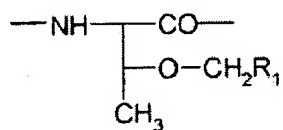
Claims

1. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of regulating an ovarian follicular reserve comprising administering to a patient a medicament comprising somatostatin or one of its agonist analogues ~~for preparing a medicament intended to regulate the ovarian follicular reserve, and in particular to reduce the depletion of the ovarian follicular reserve over time, in non-menopausal women.~~
2. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the medicament comprises~~ somatostatin ~~is used for preparing the medicament.~~
3. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the medicament comprises~~ a somatostatin agonist analogue ~~is used for preparing of the medicament.~~
4. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the somatostatin agonist analogue is a compound of general formula (I)

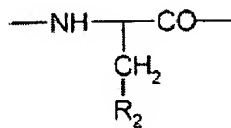


in which:

X₁ is a radical of formula (a) or (b)



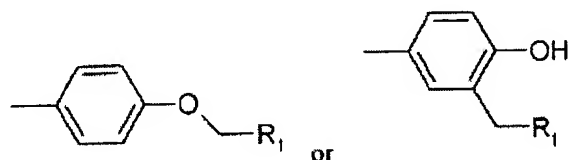
(a)



(b)

R_1 independently ~~representing at each time that it occurs~~ represents an optionally substituted phenyl radical in which the optional substituents are independently ~~chosen from~~ a halogen atom, ~~and the~~ methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ~~and or~~ ethoxy radicals,

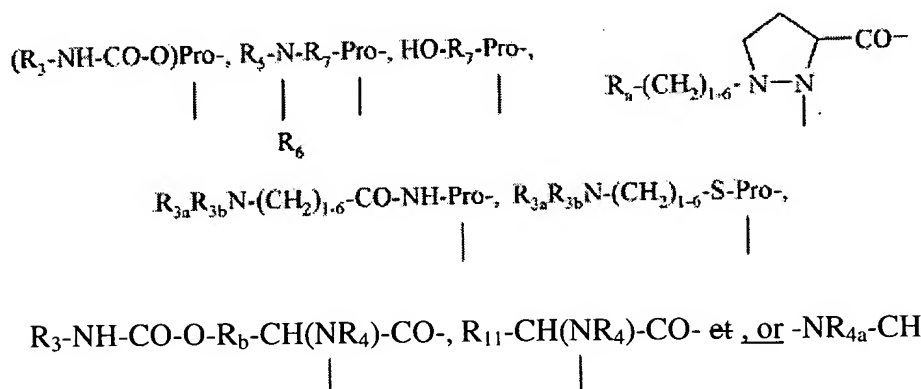
R_1 ~~representing~~ represents $-Z_1-CH_2-R_1$, $-CH_2-CO-O-CH_2-R_1$,



Z_1 ~~being~~ is O or S;

X_2 is an α -amino acid ~~having~~ comprising an aromatic residue on ~~the~~ a side chain C_{1-6} , or an amino acid unit ~~chosen from~~ including Dab, Dpr, Dpm, His, (Bzl)HyPro, thienyl-Ala, cyclohexyl-Ala ~~and or~~ t-butyl-Ala;

A is a divalent residue ~~chosen from~~ including Pro,



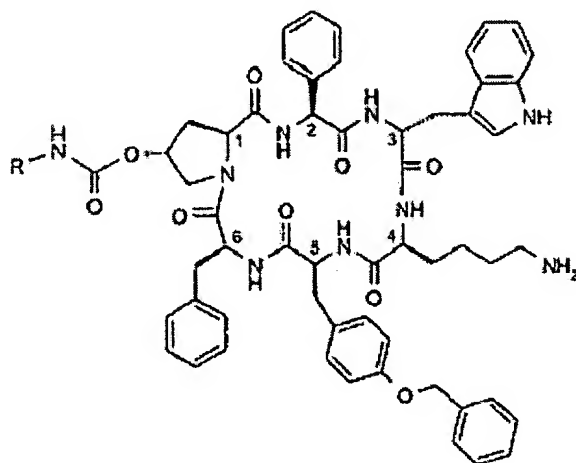
R_3 is $NR_8R_9-C_{2-6}$ alkylene, guanidino- C_{2-6} alkylene or C_{2-6} alkylene-COOH, R_{3a} is H, C_{1-4} alkyl or ~~has, independently, one of the meanings given for~~ R_3 , R_{3b} is H or C_{1-4} alkyl, R_a is OH or NR_5R_6 , R_b is $-(CH_2)_{1-3}$ or $-CH(CH_3)-$, R_4 is H or CH_3 , R_{4a} is benzyl optionally substituted on the aromatic ring, each of R_5 and R_6 is independently H, C_{1-4} alkyl, ω -amino- C_{1-4} alkylene, ω -hydroxy- C_{1-4} alkylene or acyl, R_7 is a direct bond or C_{1-6} alkylene, each of R_8 and R_9 is independently H, C_{1-4} alkyl, ω -hydroxy- C_{2-4} alkylene, acyl or

$\text{CH}_2\text{OH}-(\text{CHOH})_c-\text{CH}_2$ in which c is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, or R_8 and R_9 form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached a heterocyclic group which can include an additional heteroatom, and R_{11} is benzyl optionally substituted on the aromatic ring, $-(\text{CH}_2)_{1-3}-\text{OH}$, $\text{CH}_3-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$ or $-(\text{CH}_2)_{1-5}-\text{NR}_5\text{R}_6$, and ZZ_a is a natural or unnatural α -amino acid unit;

~~it being understood that~~ wherein X_1 , X_2 and Lys each have the configuration L;

or is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or protected form of a compound of general formula (I), or combinations thereof.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to The method of claim 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue is a compound of general formula (II)



(II)

~~in which~~ wherein R is $\text{NR}_{10}\text{R}_{11}-\text{C}_{2-6}$ alkylene or guanidine- C_{2-6} alkylene, and each of R_{10} and R_{11} is independently H or C_{1-4} alkyl

or is a pharmaceutically acceptable salts or a protected form of a compound of general formula (II), or combinations thereof.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to The method of claim 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue includes ~~is chosen from the group comprising~~ lanreotide, octreotide, vapreotide, SOM 230, MK678, BIM-23190, BIM-

23197, BIM-23268, PTR-3173, TT-232, the peptide of formula c[Tic-Tyr-DTrp-Lys-Abu-Phe], the KE 108 peptide of formula Tyr⁰-(cyclo-D-Dab-Arg-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys—Thr-Phe) ~~and~~ or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts ~~and~~ or protected forms, or combinations thereof.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the somatostatin agonist analogue is lanreotide or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to one~~ The method of claims 1 ~~to 7,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ comprising administering the medicament ~~is intended to be administered to~~ a woman at risk of early menopause.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to one~~ The method of claims 1 ~~to 7,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ comprising administering the medicament ~~is intended to be administered to~~ a woman who has an X chromosome microdeletion.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to one~~ The method of claims 1 ~~to 7,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ comprising administering the medicament ~~is intended to be administered to~~ a woman who has polycystic ovaries.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to one~~ The method of claims 1 ~~to 7,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ comprising administering the medicament ~~is intended to be administered to~~ a woman who is about to have, is currently having or has had chemotherapy or irradiation.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of determining the presence or absence of an effect of acceleration of follicle growth caused by a compound comprising conducting a toxicology test of said compound with somatostatin or one of its agonist analogues in toxicology tests relating to another compound in order to determine the presence or the absence of an effect of acceleration of follicle growth caused by said other compound.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of accelerating the start of growth of quiescent follicles in non-menopausal women comprising administering to a patient a

~~medicament comprising a somatostatin antagonist analogue for preparing a medicament intended to accelerate the start of growth of the quiescent follicles in non-menopausal women.~~

14. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to The method of~~ claim 13, characterized in that wherein the somatostatin antagonist analogue includes ~~is chosen from~~ the peptides of general formula (III)



(III)

in which:

A¹ is an optionally substituted aromatic α-amino acid;

A² is an optionally substituted aromatic α-amino acid;

A³ is Dab, Dap, Lys or Orn;

A⁴ is β-Hydroxyvaline, Ser, Hser, or Thr;

A⁵ is an optionally substituted aromatic D- or L- α-amino acid; and

Y¹ is OR, NH₂ or NHR¹, R¹ ~~being~~ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

~~each optionally substituted aromatic α-amino acid being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently chosen from the group comprising~~ includes a halogen atom, ~~and the groups~~ NO₂, OH, CN, (C₁₋₆)_alkyl, (C₂₋₆)_alkenyl, (C₂₋₆)_alkynyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy, Bzl, O-Bzl ~~and or~~ NR⁹R¹⁰, R⁹ and R¹⁰ ~~are each being~~ are each being independently H, O, or (C₁₋₆) alkyl; and

each nitrogen atom with a peptide amide bond and the amino group of A¹ ~~being~~ are optionally substituted with a methyl group, ~~it being understood with the proviso~~ with the proviso that there is at least one ~~such~~ said methyl group in a peptide of general formula (III);

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and or protected forms of such said peptides, or combinations thereof.

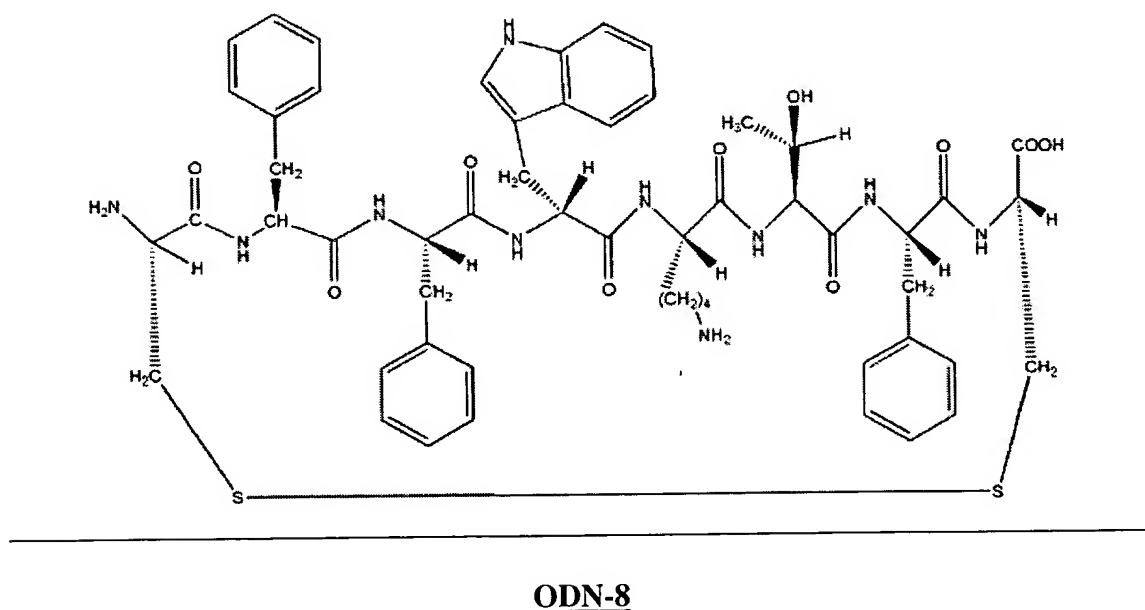
15. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to The method of claim 13, characterized in that wherein~~ the somatostatin antagonist analogue includes ~~is chosen from the group comprising:~~

❖ the following peptides:

- Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys- Pal-D- Trp-N-Me-Lys- Thr-Cys]-D-Trp-NH₂;
- Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys- Tyr-D-Trp- N-Me-Lys-Thr-Cys]-Nal-NH₂;
- Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys-Pal-D- Trp- N-Me-Lys-Thr-Cys]- Nal-NH₂;

❖ the peptide acetyl-D-His-D-Phe-D-Ile-D-Arg-D-Trp-D-Phe-NH₂ ~~known by the~~ (code name AC-178,335);

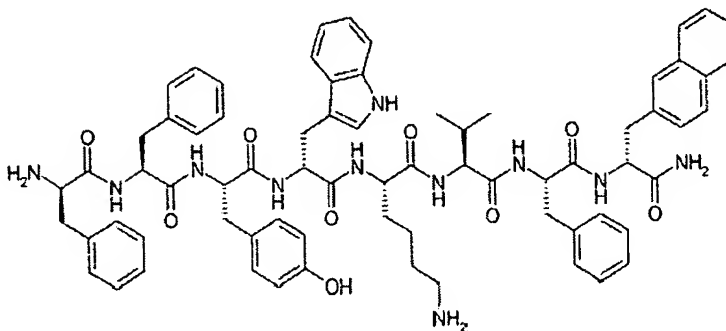
❖ the octapeptide of the following structure ~~known by the~~ (code name ODN-8);



;

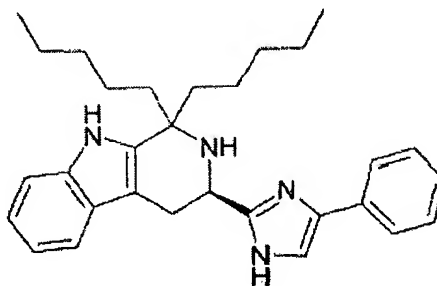
❖ the peptide Cpa-cyclo[D-Cys-Pal-D-Trp-Lys-Val-Cys]Cpa-amide ~~known by the~~ (code name SB-710411);

- ❖ the peptide of the following structure ~~known by the~~ (code name BIM-23056);



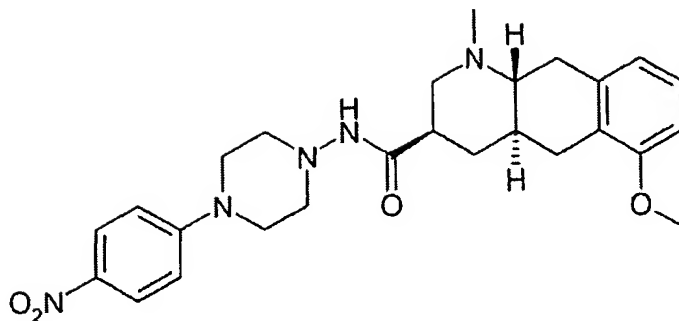
BIM 23056

-
- ❖ the compound of the following structure ~~known by the~~ (code name BN-81674);



BN-81674

-
- ❖ the compound of the following structure ~~known by the~~ (code name SRA-880);



SRA-880

~~and~~ or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts ~~and~~ or protected forms, or combinations thereof.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of supporting *in vitro* follicle development comprising employing ~~Use of a somatostatin antagonist analogue in order to support *in vitro* follicle development.~~

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method of determining the presence or absence of an effect of slowing of follicle growth caused by a compound comprising conducting a toxicology test of said compound with ~~a somatostatin antagonist analogue in toxicology tests relating to another compound in order to determine the presence or the absence of an effect of slowing the follicle growth caused by said other compound.~~

18. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the method reduces the depletion of the ovarian follicular reserve over time in non-menopausal women.